



Southeast News

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Board Of Directors Meets In Atlanta

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, met at the First Congregational Church, Atlanta, July 17.

The Reverend Olin Sheppard, Conference Moderator, presided.

The Board of Directors voted to recommend that the suggestions of the moderators for realigning associations be considered by the associations during their meetings in 1968.

The moderators, at their meeting of June 25 - 26 at Wadley, Alabama, suggested that the Southeast Conference be composed of three associations. The three associations suggested were: (1) Georgia - South Carolina Association, to include all churches in Georgia and South Carolina; (2) Alabama - Tennessee Association, to include all churches in Tennessee, Kentucky, and the churches in Alabama from Birmingham - Talladega north to the Tennessee border; and (3) South Alabama Association, to include East, Central, South Alabama - Northwest Florida associations, and several churches of the Alabama - Mississippi Association.

The Board of Directors recommended to the Annual Conference Program Committee that the Reverend Joseph Evans be the guest speaker at the next Annual Meeting.

Freddie Powell was appointed to promote the sale of subscriptions to the SOUTHEAST NEWS.

For a complete report of the activities of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference, write the Conference office requesting a copy of the minutes.

Huntsville Church Involved In Ecumenical Planning

The Huntsville United Church of Christ planned its Vacation Church School with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. In August it will cooperate with the Church of the Nativity (Episcopal) in a Leadership Training program for the Church School.

Southern Union State Junior College Serves Many

Under new management, with new facilities and an increased enrollment, Southern Union College graduated its largest class in the 46-year history of the institution.

More new buildings — administration, classroom and dormitory — are in the school's plans. President Walter A. Graham, beginning his 11th year as president, stated that the future looks extremely bright for Southern Union.

But some remember with great appreciation the school during its "poverty."

Originally named Bethlehem College, it was started by the Christian Church. Later the name was changed to Southern Union to honor the union of the Congregational and Christian denominations.

Mrs. R. M. Satterfield, a teacher at the present college, was a teacher in the original one in 1925 when it graduated its first class.

During its early years, the college was a unique institution — unique, not because of its poverty but because of what it accomplished in the midst of its poverty. The construction of the buildings was a tremendous undertaking! At that time and place "cash money" was a rare commodity.

(Continued on Page 4)

A Great Tragedy Is Taking Place

One of the great tragedies in the long history of man is taking place now. And the rest of the world sits by — some helping, some seeking to help, some totally unaware that anything is happening, some aware but totally unconcerned.

Hundreds — thousands — hundreds of thousands — possibly millions of Biafrans are starving to death. Between the time this article goes to press and the time it is received by the readers, perhaps untold thousands of God's beloved children will have starved to death — men, women and children.

The Christian communities within the Southeast Conference have a responsibility. We are involved — for these dying are our fellow men. It is late. The right time to act has passed. But significant action is still possible.

What will your congregation do? How will it respond to this great human tragedy?

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Southeast News now costs \$1.00

per year by action of the  
Board of Directors  
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Teacher Training School To Be Held In Atlanta

The United Church of Christ and United Presbyterian, USA will conduct a Laboratory Teacher Training School at Central Congregational Church, September 9 - 11, 7:30 - 9 p. m. each evening.

Courses will be offered for persons working on Christian Education Committees and in Church School Administration. Also, there will be courses for teachers of all age groups from pre-school to adults.

The Reverend Miss Emille Pitcock is coordinating UCC participation. Persons interested in attending should contact her.

Mrs. Sue Colussy, Covenant United Presbyterian Church Director of Christian Education, is coordinating UP participation. Registration, \$1.00.

1968 Neighbors In Crisis Offering To Meet Varied Needs

The United Church of Christ, along with other communions, has accepted new priorities for the next few years; priorities that summon the churches to involvement in the Crisis in the Nation.

The crisis is the ominous threat of a polarization of the American community into separate and unequal societies and, ultimately, the destruction of basic democratic values.

Recognizing that all men are deeply involved in the lives of each other, the United Church has developed a Neighbors in Need offering and used the funds to meet the needs of men.

Thus, the 1968 fall offering has been changed to Neighbors in Crisis. The funds raised will be used in the North and the South, in the East and the West — for men in crisis are found across the nation.

Programs for leadership development, for assisting businessmen to create needed businesses, for upgrading the skills of the unemployed, for raising educational skills of drop-outs, for cultural enrichment and recreation — these will become realities through the Neighbors in Crisis offering. And they will affect the lives of those in deep need.

Support the involvement of the church in God's mission to men in need.

THE SITUATION — Let Us Be Bold About It

"There is a new breed of Holy Man: he is semi-holy; involved, committed and vulnerable. He is everywhere realist and revolutionary. But more: he is nearly always uncertain and insecure."

Thus begins the brochure from Interpreters' House, a creative rest stop for clergymen and laymen. Situated on Lake Junaluska in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, Interpreters' House originated in the experiences of Dr. Carlyle Marney, one of the nation's finest ministers.

Interpreters' House seeks to aid ministers and others "re-tool" themselves, a necessity if they are to become servants of God in the service of modern mankind.

A series of eight three-week seminars will be held for pastors. Each seminar is limited to 36 men and meets Monday through Friday of each week.

Inquiries about attendance are invited. No one should fail to apply for lack of funds. Financial grants are possible where necessary. Any man is welcome from any communion, any size parish, any educational background.

Inquiries should be sent to:

Dr. Carlyle Marney, Interpreters' House at Lambuth Inn, Box 36, Lake Junaluska, N. C. 28745.

(We commend the above to those who desire to improve themselves as ministers of God who serve modern men.)

NCC Board Backs King- Style Civil Disobedience

The General Board of the National Council of Churches at its New York meeting recognized civil disobedience as defined in the lives of such men as Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr., as a "valid instrument for those who seek justice."

In a policy statement the board defined civil disobedience as "deliberate peaceful violation of a law deemed to be unjust, in obedience to conscience or a higher law, and with recognition of the state's legal authority to punish the violator."

The statement did not deal with civil resistance or revolution, but said a study of these forces should be made.



Tennessee Pastor To Begin New Ministry

The Reverend Benjamin E. Lewis, pastor of the First United Church of Christ of Sweetwater, Tennessee, for the past eight years, is expanding his ministry by becoming a part-time "advisor in community relations and human resources" for the United Church, Chapel-on-the-Hill in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

He will spend about 20 hours per week working in Oak Ridge as a liaison between the members of the United Church and members of the Negro community, many of whom live in the section of Oak Ridge called Scarborough.

The United Church of Sweetwater and the Chapel-on-the-Hill have had a close relationship for several years. Many of the members of both congregations are fellow employees of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and other installations in the "Atomic City."

The Reverend Lewis' new job has received the enthusiastic approval of both congregations, of the Conference, and of the Board for Homeland Ministries.

The Oak Ridge church is non-denominational. Its former pastors and its present pastor have been ordained UCC ministers.

The Reverend Lewis began his ministry in Oak Ridge July 1. He is in great demand as a speaker before church groups, both youth and adult.

The Southeast News will carry a personal report from him at a later date as it follows this unique ministry.

The Church At Work In An Unusual Situation

Outside the city of Osaka, Japan, a new planned city is being developed. Begun seven years ago, Senri New Town now has a population of 80,000 and expects to reach 150,000 in a few years.

The master plan calls for 12 sections, each with large apartment buildings and single family dwellings, a shopping complex, a public hall and transportation facilities. There are complete educational facilities, including a university — but there will be no church buildings.

Religious organizations are not allowed to own property in Senri New Town. They cannot hold religious services in the public halls. However, they can rent them for Bible study and other activities. But in the city there will be no temples, no shrines, no churches.

Yet Senri New Town has a Christian congregation. It began with a meeting in a rented home. The United Church of Christ in Japan appointed the Rev. Toru Hashimoto as pioneer pastor in the community.

It also proposed that land be secured for a nursery school, through which the church might serve and reach the people.

The congregation now numbers 60 persons. It conducts Sunday school classes and worship services in apartments and houses, as well as in the Ayame Nursery School which has day care services and pre-school classes.

The United Church of Christ in Japan has a significant history of meeting human needs in creative ways. OCWM Basic Support funds support many of these meaningful endeavors.

Baptist Seminar Recommends Greater Involvement

A recent seminar between the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Southeastern Seminary and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention resulted in some provocative recommendations.

The seminar advised Baptists to abandon their "go-it-alone" methodology and to "work closely with government, private and other religious bodies in the inner city."

Church parking lots should be turned into weekday playgrounds, advised those participating in the seminar.

The above information was excerpted from the Atlanta Constitution, July 25.

Atlanta Churches Form Coordinating Committee

The United Church of Christ and United Presbyterian, USA congregations of Atlanta have formed the Metro-Atlanta Coordinating Committee (MACC).

The purpose of the joint committee is to implement joint strategies and action through exchange of information, discussion of mutual interests and concerns, and involvement in specific issues affecting the churches and the community.

Through MACC, the churches will seek to bring Christian influence to bear on the formation of public policy regarding specific issues. Also, MACC will propose objectives and priorities for the cooperative efforts of the Atlanta churches.

Each church will decide upon its participation in any MACC program.

The United Presbyterians have had a Coordinating Council for some time in the Atlanta area. They recently invited the United Churches to become members of a joint council.

There are five United Church of Christ congregations in the Atlanta area and six United Presbyterian.



Phenix City Church Events

The First Congregational Christian Church of Phenix City, Alabama, recently donated 50 folding chairs to the new Bonanza United Church of Christ in Jonesboro, Georgia. The chairs were delivered by Henry Cook and Gordon Edwards.

The Rev. Floyd Carmack, pastor of Bonanza, said that the greatly needed chairs would be used in the Sunday School.

The Rev. John Rhodes is pastor of the Phenix City church.

Hymn Arrangement Of UCC Statement Of Faith

(To be sung to the tune "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken")

God, Eternal Spirit, Father
Of our Lord, and of mankind!
Now to Him we come believing,
His Creation bring to mind.
Worlds He makes, and in His image
Man, to ponder life and death;
Seeks in love to save all people,
Judges by His Holy Breath.
Jesus Christ, the Man of Nazareth,
Crucified and risen Lord,
Comes to share our common nature
And fulfill Thy Holy Word.
He Who conquered sin and dying
Victor evermore shall be,
Reconciling men and nations
To each other and to Thee.
Now created by Thy Spirit
Stands the Church in full array,
Binding in one holy concord
All who worship Thee today;
Men of every land and nation,
Every age and tongue and race,
Witnessing as Christian brothers
To the oneness of Thy grace.
Hear the call to be disciples,
Cost to render, joy to claim;
Eager to declare the Gospel,
Stemming evil in His Name;
Sharing Christ's own baptized nature,
And His table made our own,
Joining, at His gracious bidding
In His passion and His crown.
Take His promise, you who trust Him,
Find forgiveness by His grace,
Join the search for peace and justice,
And Eternal Life embrace;
For His kingdom knows no ending,
Nor His purpose time or tide;
Blessing, honor, power and glory
Evermore in Him abide.

— William Nelson

UCC Minister Heads Georgia Region NCCJ

Dr. A. Wilson Cheek, a United Church of Christ minister, assumed responsibility as Director of the Georgia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews February 1, 1968.

A native of North Carolina, Dr. Cheek has served as pastor of several churches and has had extensive experience in religious education and youth work.

He received an honorary doctor of divinity degree in 1959 from Catawba College.

Dr. Cheek is a member of the First Congregational Church, Atlanta.

Southern Union . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Those who had an intimate knowledge of the college during much of its life, frequently wondered how it continued to exist. Those who labored there during the Thirties learned that a college could operate on a barter system. Students paid their way with sweet potatoes, beans, sorghum and black-eyed peas. Faculty members traded their instructional skills for these farm products. The college youth wanted an education and were willing to pay for it by any means available.

Poor as it was, the college maintained a competent and dedicated faculty. Few small colleges were ever more widely known. Nearly all of the churches in and Christian Church and the Congregational Church knew of it. And they also helped support it. Funds came from many sections of the nation.

The people of the local area contributed to its support with unusual sacrifice. They gave money and labor.

Southern Union College has trained many men for the ministry. They served the churches well — in the South, as well as in other parts of the country.

Those who remember its past also are encouraged by its present. The fine institution has not died. It is now part of the state's college system. Its future looks brighter than its memorable past.

Southern Union College is located in Wadley, Alabama.

Huntsville Members

Appreciate New Liturgy

Since last fall, the United Church of Christ in Huntsville, Alabama, has been using a special liturgy on Communion Sundays. The liturgy, The Lord's Day Service, was prepared by the Commission on Worship of the United Church of Christ. The service has been received with appreciation by many churches in the denomination.

Recently, the Board of Elders of the Huntsville Church authorized the use of the Lord's Day Service in the regular Sunday worship of the church. The service of worship is adaptable for use without Communion.

The minister and the Board of Elders have asked the membership for comments. "Worship is a corporate act requiring the participation of our entire community of faith," stated the church's newspaper in inviting the members' comments.

Knoxville Church Sells Building

The First Congregational Church of Knoxville, Tenn., recently conveyed the deed to the church property to the city-county. Plans call for razing the historic building and constructing a city-county library on the site. The sale price was \$285,000.

First Congregational Church will temporarily hold services in a large stone house on Weisgarber Road and later will build on its new property.

The Reverend Howard Bozarth is interim pastor of the church.

The Millard Fuller Family Writes:

Our lives have been full and exciting since we left Montgomery in late 1965. On April 1, 1966, I started working with Tougaloo College (located near Jackson, Miss.) in connection with a fund raising effort to upgrade the physical plant and academic program of the college.

For those of you who don't know, Tougaloo is an integrated college, predominantly Negro, that was started by the American Missionary Association (now a part of the United Church of Christ) in 1869. Today, it is related to the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ. The student body numbers 650.

I have submitted my resignation to Tougaloo and will be leaving this office on June 30. (As I stated earlier, my interest in the college remains high and my resignation does not mean loss of interest. In the future I will simply work from the "outside" rather than from the "inside".)

After visits to both sets of parents in Alabama — we haven't been "home" in two years — and a brief vacation in Florida, we will move to Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, where I will begin work with Dr. Clarence Jordan.

It is our intention to form "The Partnership Movement" with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. This "Movement" is to be a preaching, teaching, and healing ministry, patterned after the ministry of Christ.

After July 1, our address will be: Koinonia Farm, Route 2, Americus, Georgia 31709. Phone 912-024-7253.

"How We Make Decisions" Is Theme Of Youth Conference

Rev. Charles Maxell, pastor of Midway Presbyterian Church, Midway, Georgia, was director of the Senior High Youth Conference, held at Dorchester Center, McIntosh, Georgia, July 26-28. Others on the staff were Mr. and Mrs. William Sharpe of Charleston, South Carolina, Miss Dorothy DeVillars of Savannah, Georgia, Miss Alliene DeChant of Kutztown, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Eugene Templeton, summer student worker.

Lively discussions centered around the showing of the film "Phoebe" and the group's seeing "The Greatest Story Ever Told" at nearby Fort Stewart.

Fall Association Meetings

- Oct. 5 — N. Ala., Old Liberty Grove, 9 a. m.
Oct. 8 — Ala. - Tenn., First, Nashville, 10:30
Oct. 11 — Ga. - S. C., Davis Cafe, Macon, 10:30 (2 assns.)
Oct. 12 — S. Ala. - N. W. Fla., Baker Good Hope, 10:30
Oct. 16 — E. Ala. - Lanett, 10:00
Oct. 17 — E. Ala., Roanoke, Antioch, 10:00
Oct. 19 — Tenn. - Ky., Pleasant Hill, 10:00
Oct. 26 — Ala. - Miss., Talladega, 10:00
Oct. 27 — Central Alabama, 2:30 p. m.

Pastor Becomes Grandfather

The Reverend and Mrs. Walter Hall became grandparents July 10 when their son's wife gave birth to a girl.

The Reverend Mr. Hall is pastor of the Congregational Christian Church (UCC) in Lanett, Alabama.

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Mission Boards To Work Together

Mission Boards of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) announced they are combining administration of their work in Latin America.

It will be the second such step for the two denominations.

Dr. William J. Nottingham, a minister of the Disciples of Christ, will become the Latin America Executive for both churches September 1.

The two mission boards asserted that the joint arrangement "promises to enhance efficiency of administration but is ultimately based, not on expedience, but upon the conviction that the mission is God's and it is, in fact, one mission."

The United Church is involved in Latin America work in Mexico, Honduras, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina. The Disciples have involvements in Mexico, Venezuela, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Puerto Rico.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

If you are puzzled about "crude and undignified" methods employed by groups of people protesting secondary schools, inadequate collection of garbage, or inferior housing, then you should see **Liberate the Captives**, a sound filmstrip recently added to the Southeast Conference library.

Liberate the Captives has been produced to help adults and youth: 1. Sense that the poor, in a very real way, are "captives" in our culture; 2. see that this captivity is a result of the powerlessness of the poor to share in or to influence basic community decisions affecting their lives; 3. learn something of the ways available to the poor for organizing to gain their fair share of power in community decision-making; 4. become aware that the church is needed both to stimulate the poor to exercise power in a redemptive way and to stimulate the power structure to respond to these initiatives of the poor with empathy and selflessness.

Appropriate for schools of mission, family nights, youth meetings, meetings of men's and/or women's groups, leadership training courses, summer institutes and conferences, this filmstrip is available from the Southeast Conference for return postage.

New Pastor Installed In Cullman Church

The Reverend George A. Fidler was installed as pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Cullman, Alabama, July 21.

The installation service was an encouraging expression of ecumenical cooperation. The installation committee consisted of United Church of Christ ministers and pastors of the United Methodist and Lutheran churches in Cullman. Perry Warren, president of St. John's Church Council, and Hubert Richter, past moderator of the Southeast Conference and a member of St. John's Church, also were members of the installation committee.

The Reverend W. J. Andes, Conference Minister, presided at the Act of Installation, and delivered the sermon.

Members of the church indicate that attendance at worship has greatly increased since the new pastor arrived, and that the church has begun conducting mid-week prayer services.

Methodists Urged To Engage "Pressing Social Issues Of The Day"

Sixteen Southeastern United Methodist bishops issued a joint message urging fuller participation in the ecumenical movement and increased commitment to the "pressing social issues of the day."

The clergymen said the movement for freedom "must continue to go forward until every person regardless of color enjoys equal justice, equal treatment and equal opportunities."

It is expected that the Methodists will assign a Negro bishop to a predominantly white episcopal area somewhere in the Southeast.

The above information was excerpted from the Atlanta Constitution, July 25.

Tennessee Pastor Resigns

The Reverend Melvin Fenner recently resigned as pastor of the First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, Tennessee. During the summer, he will be supply pastor of a Florida church.

Presently, the Belvidere church is obtaining the services of various ministers and students.

The Reverend Calton Krueger, former pastor of the church, will conduct the homecoming day service August 11.

NEWS FROM UPLANDS

Volunteer Completes Year's Service

Miss Jan Cottongim of Middletown, Ohio, the third full-time volunteer serving at Uplands under the Voluntary Service Program of the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ, completed her ten months of service in the Uplands Child Care Center late in March. A recognition tea was given in her honor the afternoon before her departure. At that time the children of the Child Care Center, staff members, residents of the retirement village and others came to express their gratitude to Miss Cottongim.

After going to roundup session for volunteers at the Voluntary Service Center at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and then to her home in Ohio for a week, she returned to Uplands to continue serving as a regular staff member. In this capacity, she will continue to work in the Child Care Center.

* * *

Dr. Stewart Woman Of The Year

Dr. Margaret K. Stewart was significantly honored in May by being named "Woman of the Year in Cumberland County." She was presented with an engraved silver tray.

In connection with the awarding of the honor to Dr. Stewart by the Cumberland County Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Jayceettes, the following testimonial was read: "Material goods mean nothing to Dr. Stewart, other than the good which can be done for her fellowman. If a call for help comes and her old car is not available or in running condition, she walks (sometimes as much as several miles) in order to bring medical help to the person or persons needing it. She hardly knows the meaning of the word 'no'."

Dr. Stewart is the kind of person who would think nothing of giving the last penny she has, or her own coat or other clothing, to someone whom she feels needs it worse than she. Sympathetic loving kindness, concern, and an understanding type of love characterize her feelings and relationships with the people she serves and works with.

In addition to being a physician, Dr. Stewart is a musician. She deeply appreciates and with real feeling ministers with music. Even when she is called upon at the very last minute, she has no hesitation in coming into the Nursing Home to provide the music for vesper services."



Atlanta Church Assists VBS In Public Housing Area

The First Congregational Church, Atlanta, with the cooperation of the parents and officials of the Carver Homes, conducted a four-week Daily Vacation Bible School for the children of the public housing community.

The program expenses were provided by the church. The Reverend Homer C. McEwen is pastor.

Meeting for 3½ hours daily, the children studied Negro history, biblical materials, and arts and crafts. A period of recreation and refreshments were part of the daily activities.

The Reverend Donald Daughtry, associate minister of First Congregational, was principal. He and other members of the church will continue to work with the youths and adults during the year.

OCWM Commission Member Is On Asia Tour

R. A. Kampmeier, a member of the OCWM Commission of the Southeast Conference and a member of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, is on a tour of the Far East and Russia. His wife is accompanying him.

He will visit Japan, Bangkok, Thailand, India, and Moscow, Russia. In Moscow Kampmeier will attend the World Power Conference.

Sweetwater Holds VBS

More than one hundred boys and girls, from kindergarten through junior high school ages, were enrolled in the Vacation Church School of the United Church of Christ at Sweetwater, Tennessee.

Under the direction of Miss Yubenia Prigmore, four classes met for five afternoons during the week of July 15, using the texts of the Cooperative Vacation Church School Series.

At the closing program, Sunday, July 21, representatives of the four classes presented highlights of the week-long discoveries. Mrs. Laura Edington led the kindergarten children in a flannelgraph presentation first, of the Creation Story and, second, of discoveries in and around the Sweetwater neighborhood.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Viola Prather, the primary boys and girls sang and gave some appropriate readings.

Featured in the junior department portion of the program was a litany combining the Creation Story with meaningful New Testament selections. In addition to directing the school, Miss Prigmore led the junior department.

The pastor, Rev. Benjamin E. Lewis, was the leader of the junior high department, who closed the evening program by leading the worship service.

Young People Conduct VBS At Phenix City

A group of young girls felt that the Russell Woods Church at Phenix City, Alabama, ought to have a Vacation Bible School. With the permission of the church, they appointed a superintendent, gathered needed materials, made and delivered invitations, and then taught the classes.

The involved, creative youth were: Misses Ellen Dees, Ester Dees, Gloria Hammonds, and Faye Gullatt.

The congregation allowed them to conduct the Sunday worship service, July 21, at which they had the school's graduation.

Several ladies in the church assisted the school by providing transportation, refreshments and music.

The Reverend William Bryan, pastor of Russell Woods Church, stated that the youths inspired the congregation. Several families joined the church and the men are beginning a group for visitation and witness to the community.

Filmstrip For Children

Unlike most filmstrips, *Four Ways from Bethlehem*, a recent production for children, is actually four film-slips of 12 frames each which may be used separately.

Part I. "A Workshop in Bethlehem" depicts activity in a Bethlehem workshop where creche sets are carved from olive wood.

Part II. "A Garden Where People Grow" shows photographs of the Columbia, Maryland, Project, telling the story of Christian involvement in a new type of city.

Part III. "In the Beginning." While the Genesis account is read, reproductions of children's art around the world tell the story of the Creation.

Part IV. "Open the Door, And —" shows complex and simple church buildings all over the world. Discussion questions help children think through the truth that building size or structure are not so important as the persons who worship there and who exert Christian influence in the community.

Four Ways from Bethlehem is available for return postage from the Southeast Conference office.